

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 031342Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6849

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

S E C R E T AMMAN 0601

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS JO SA US

SUBJECT: HAWK FINANCING

REF: JIDDA 0638

1. RIFAI GAVE ME A SHORT READ OUT OF HIS CONVERSATION
FEBRUARY 2 WITH PRINCE FAHD ON HAWK FINANCING. HE SAID
ISSUE CAME UP ONLY PERIPHERALLY AND JORDANIANS DID
MORE LISTENING THAN TALKING.

2. HE REPEATED WHAT EMBASSY JIDDA HAD TOLS US-THAT
FAHD SAID HE WAS SENDING INSTRUCTION TO WASHINGTON TO HIS
AMBASSADOR THERE TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH THE
UNITED STATES AND WORK OUT THE DETAILS. RIFAI REPORTED THAT FAHD
SAID THE ISSUE WAS NOT NOT BETWEEN JORDAN AND SAUDI
ARABIA BUT BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES
AND THT SAUDI ARABIA DID NOT APPRECIATE HAVING
BEEN HANDED AN ULTIMATIM BY THE UNITED STATES ON THE ISSUE.
RIFAI SAID THAT FAHD HAD PERSONALLY OBJECTED TO BOTH
THE SHORT DEADLINE FOR DOWNPAYMENT AND THE "PRICE INCREASE"
OF WHICH HE HAD APPARENTLY JUST BECOME AWARE AT THE END OF JANUARY.
I ASKED RIFAI IF THE JORDANIANS HAD NOT GIVEN THE
SAUDIS OUR LETTER ON THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT
IN DECEMBER. HE SAID THAT ABSOLUTELY THE JORDANIANS

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HAD BUT THAT THE SAUDIS DONT READ ANYTHING AND THAT

IT WAS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT FAHD HAD NEVER BEEN
SUPPLIED THE INFORMATION.

3. RIFAI CONCLUDES THAT THE SAUDIS ARE STILL WILLING
TO SUPPORT THE DEAL, BUT WILL WANT TO TALK WITH THE
UNITED STATES DIRECTLY ABOUT THE PRICES, TIMING AND SCHEDULE
FOR PAYMENTS AND OTHER DETAILS. FROM WHAT HE SAID
I PRESUME THIS WILL BE DONE THROUGH THE SAUDI EMBASSY
IN WASHINGTON. IF THE DEPARTMENT OR DEFENSE IS NOT
CONTACTED BY THE SAUDIS WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF
TIME AND THE REQUIREMENT TO CANCEL THE CONTRACT ON THE 29TH
OF FEBRUARY REMAINS FIXED, I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST IT WOULD
BE HELPFUL TO ALL CONCERNED IF WE TOOK THE INITIATIVE
TO CONTACT THE SAUDIS ON THE BASIS OF THE TWO REPORTS
WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED OF FAHD'S INTENTIONS.
PICKERING

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF

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NNN

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